



IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

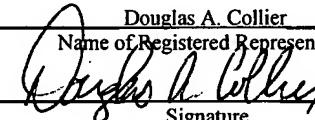
In re patent application of: )  
Trieu et al. ) Before the Examiner  
Serial No. 10/083,199 ) Eduardo C. Robert  
Filed February 26, 2002 ) Group Art Unit 3732  
FLEXIBLE SYSTEMS FOR SPINAL ) Atty Docket No. 4002-2950/PC464.00  
STABILIZATION AND FIXATION ) August 31, 2005

**PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT**

Commissioner for Patents  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Sir:

In response to the Final Office Action mailed June 1, 2005, in the above application, please consider and enter the following Preliminary Amendment accompanying a Request for Continued Examination and fee for the same. No additional fees or extensions of time are believed due for consideration of the enclosed; however, please provide any extensions of time which may be necessary and charge any additional fees which may be due to deposit account 12-2424, but not including the payment of issue fees.

I hereby certify that this Correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the United States Patent and Trademark Office at 571-273-8700 on:
August 31, 2005 (Date of Transmission)
Douglas A. Collier Name of Registered Representative
 Signature
August 31, 2005 Date of Signature